



# The Mountain-Prairie Review

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October 2002

## Carl Madsen Receives Interior's Highest Honor

By Dan Sobieck

Carl Madsen, Brookings, SD, was presented with the Department of Interior's Distinguished Service Award in Washington, D.C., on September 4, 2002. Carl received the award for his work in establishing the Service's National Partners for Fish and Wildlife program.

Carl has a reputation for innovation. As part of the innovative Mid-Continent Waterfowl Management Project he helped create tax incentives for landowners who preserve wetlands and established cost-effective partnerships between government, not-profit, and private sector parties to restore drained wetlands. Working with Ducks Unlimited, he also developed a Wildlife Management Agreement in 1985, which opened the door for DU to channel resources to projects on private lands. These Wildlife Management Agreements are used today across the country to match willing landowners with available funding for their conservation projects.

Over 1.1 million acres of wildlife habitat have benefitted from Partners projects since the program's inception. He was also instrumental in the development of the Pioneer Conservation Trust conservation venture and the partnership with DU and Successful Farming Magazine on the "Farming in the Flyways." His work also expanded the North American Waterfowl Management Plan to include the National Association of Conservation Districts which established thousands of districts as participants in wetland conservation plans nationwide and established the South Dakota Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

"Carl founded the concept of 'farm the best, and leave the rest'," said Service's Regional Director Ralph Morgenweck. "In addition to conserving habitat, this just made good business sense to many landowners. Carl demonstrated you could protect and improve fish and wildlife habitat on private land and still make a profit. This fact helped the Partners program grow from a four-county pilot in western Minnesota in 1978, to a program involving over 21,000 landowners in all 50 states today. Without Carl's vision this would have never happened."

"It really isn't an exaggeration to call Carl the father of the Service's Partners Program," said Morgenweck. "We're very proud of what Carl has accomplished for wildlife and for the cooperative example he has set for Service employees in the future. His Distinguished Service award has been hard-earned and much deserved."



Congrats Carl Madsen!

On October 3, Carl retired and we wish him all the best.



## Happy Halloween!

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## Manhattan ES Field holds Public Meetings on Proposed Designation Critical Habitat for Topeka Shiner

By Matt Kales



Following the Labor Day holiday, several members of the Manhattan, KS Ecological Services field office, embarked on a 2-week, six-state tour to inform the public about the Service's recent proposed rules designating critical habitat for the Topeka shiner (*Notropis Topeka*), a small minnow listed as endangered in 1998. Once common in small to mid-size streams in the central prairie regions of the United States, the Topeka shiner has been adversely impacted by habitat loss, hydrologic alteration, predation by introduced fishes, and other human activities. The proposed rule, which was developed pursuant to a court settlement, would designate 186 stream segments totaling 2,340 miles of streams in Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri as critical habitat for the Topeka shiner.

The team from Manhattan, consisting of Bill Gill (Project Leader), Vern Tabor (author of the proposed rule), Dan Mulhern, Dale Scott, and Chuck Sperry (a contract facilitator), criss-crossed the Midwest between September 4 and September 11, holding public meetings in all affected states, explaining the proposed rule, and answering questions from landowners, Federal and State officials, representatives from nongovernmental organizations, and elected officials. Matt Kales from R6 External Affairs joined the team for the meetings in Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota to assist with media and liaise with elected officials. Attendance at all of the meetings in the Mountain-Prairie Region was high, as was the level of interest in the proposal expressed by attendees. Service personnel did an outstanding job both of presenting the proposed rule and of addressing questions from landowners and other concerned about the regulatory burden and management implications associated with critical habitat designation and about the scientific rationale for the proposal. Thanks to their professional and diplomatic performance, Service personnel at each meeting turned what could have been simply an exercise in "fed bashing" into a productive and educational experience for all participants.

The Service will continue to accept public comments on the proposed rule through October 21 of this year, after which the Manhattan office will begin the process of reviewing public comments and finalizing the rule. Pursuant to the court settlement, the publication deadline for the final rule is August 13, 2003. Concurrently, the Manhattan office will conduct an environmental assessment on the action and assist in the preparation of an economic analysis for the critical habitat designation. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the environmental assessment and the economic analysis as well.

## Foster a Sense of Wonder

By Diane Emmons



Jackie Jacobson is this year's Region 6 nominee for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sense of Wonder award. This national award is given to a Service employee who has shown visionary leadership by developing or implementing an interpretive or environmental education project that fosters a sense of wonder and enhances stewardship of our wildlife heritage.

Jackie has worked tirelessly at Audubon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Lake Ilo NWR, and Audubon Wetland Management District over the past 12 years to develop a complete and dynamic interpretation and education program. Jackie has created a variety of opportunities for people to experience and learn about the natural areas of North Dakota, including a wildlife auto tour, exhibits and displays, and an environmental education classroom and museum. Jackie is also working on several education projects with the Service's North Dakota Outreach Committee.

As a nominee for this award, Jackie will attend the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) conference this November. The Division of Visitor Services and Communications, NCTC's Division of Education Outreach, and the Regional Office will cover the costs of attending the conference. The national winner will be announced at the NAI conference awards ceremony. So congratulate Jackie on her nomination and wish her luck for the national award!

## Media Corner

By Debbie Felker

### News Media: Friend or Foe?



The news media are neither friend or foe. The media exists to inform audiences about their world – whether good or bad. The media provides objective information representing both sides of a story to enable audiences to form their own opinions.

The media can help the Service in a variety of ways by providing information on:

1. Emergencies (i.e., wildfires, floods, disease)
2. Special Events (promoting attendance at open houses, dedications)
3. Showcasing Programs/Services (telling the stories that make the Service unique)
4. Environmental/Conservation Issues (telling stories that help shape public opinion and values)

Sometimes it seems like the media only focuses on the negative. The public is highly concerned when an incident occurs that may affect them directly or indirectly. They hunger for information about real or perceived threats to their safety and well-being, including people and organizations in their local communities and nationally. The news media is there to explain the who, what, when, where, why and how of what happened.

If the Service suffers an incident that does not present itself in a positive light, the media can be a good resource for helping the public understand what happened, why it occurred and what measures the Service is taking to ensure it doesn't happen again.

There are certain skills you can develop to improve your ability to work with members of the press. The External Affairs Office will present tips each month to help build your knowledge and improve your skills.

After publication, tips will be posted on the website at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/ea>.

Next Month: What is News?

*Editor's Note: This is the first of a series of short tips on how to work with the news media. Each month, the tips will be posted to our website at: <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/ea>.*

## Lake Ilo National Wildlife Refuge Greenwings Day

By Jackie Jacobson

Greenwings Day was held at Lake Ilo National Wildlife Refuge on August 17, 2002. Over 100 children and parents were in attendance to learn about wildlife conservation and hunting. The afternoon focused on four field demonstrations: The Turkey Hunting and Calling demonstration introduced participants to hunting wild turkeys in North Dakota and also gave kids the opportunity to experience many different calling techniques. Dog training featured obedience training with young hunting dogs, as well as upland and water retrieval. The Duck Banding demonstration included migration flyways, how bag limits are determined, why banding is done, duck identification, and a chance for the kids to hold the ducks before they were released. The last demonstration of the day provided the kids an opportunity to use bows, arrows and targets.

Field demonstrations were taught by local volunteers. Hunting and conservation-related door prizes were provided for all participants, and a picnic lunch finished out the day.

This is the second season for Greenwings Day at Lake Ilo Refuge, and we plan to continue the event in the future. The number of participants has doubled from last year, and all participants were appreciative of the opportunity to be introduced to these outdoor skills.



Photo: Two local youngsters get ready to release their birds at Lake Ilo Refuge Greenwing Day.





## Celebrating a Century of Conservation



### Centennial Trail Boardwalk

By Steve Chipman

In August I was fortunate to be involved in a very unique and challenging experience. I and nine other U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service employees answered the call to help in the construction of the Centennial Trail Boardwalk at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge in Florida. After much debate in the Regional Office, Region 4 made the decision not to contract out the building of this centennial symbol, but instead, to utilize the talents and efforts of the employees that already worked for the Fish & Wildlife Service across the country.

Although the construction will not be completed until a second crew takes over in mid September, the 1/4-mile boardwalk and twenty-foot high observation tower are well underway and on track for the targeted completion date.

The boardwalk will include 530 engraved planks, one for each refuge in the system, spaced chronologically throughout the length of the boardwalk. Each engraved plank will include the refuge name, its state and year of establishment.

Besides me, Dave Trapp from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR also represented Region 6. Alan Lageman of Great River NWR, Ed Lagace of the Region 3 Sign Shop, and Jay Ciucci of Agassiz NWR represented Region 3. In addition, Jerome Whitbey of Region 4's Holla Bend NWR, Greg Boling of Carolina Sandhills NWR, Brian Alfred from Lacassine NWR, and Tom Bender from the Regional Office in Atlanta, made up the first 10-man crew.

The Centennial Trail will be the focal point of the National Centennial Celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System on March 14, 2003. On that day, the Centennial Trail Grand Opening and Dedication Ceremony will be held.

Tom Bender did an excellent job of documenting our nine days in Florida with pictures and putting them together in a slide show presentation. This show can be seen on the network by running:

**X:\Temp\Pelican Island Pictures\Pelican.exe.**



The Group



A view of a construction

### Looking at our Past, Present, and Future –The Centennial Time Capsules Project

By Melvie Uhland

As part of the national Centennial Time Capsule project, each of the Region 6 staffed refuges is working on a time capsule project with their local communities. Many of our Refuges are using this project as a way to get their neighbors thinking about what the Refuge means to the local community and to the future landscape of the area. The Regional Office is also participating with its own time capsule.

This national project will culminate on March 14, 2003 with a ceremony at Pelican Island NWR. A national time capsule – with a unique item from each staffed refuge in the System – will be displayed at Pelican Island. President and Mrs. Bush are expected to participate in this time capsule ceremony as part of the celebrations that day at the birth place of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

### New ND ES Field Supervisor

By Susan Linner

I'm happy to announce that Jeff Towner has accepted the position of Field Supervisor for the North Dakota ES Office. Jeff is currently the Field Supervisor of the Elkins, WV ES Field Office. His previous work experience includes 15 years with the Corps of Engineers Regulatory and Environmental Analysis Branches in Alaska and Michigan. Given the scope and effect of wetland issues in North Dakota this experience should prove to be very valuable in his new position. Jeff will be on board in Bismarck in mid-December. Until then, Roger Collins and Bill Bicknell will continue to serve as Acting Field Supervisor.

## Tip of the Month Speed up your typing

By Heather Gonzalez



If you find yourself typing long words again and again, you should consider setting up typing shortcuts, so you only need to type in part of the word and Microsoft Word fills in the rest. For example, if I need to type **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** (who we work for), I just type **USFWS**; then I press the SPACEBAR, Word automatically spells out all the words.

Here's how I set up this shortcuts:

1. On the **Tools** menu, click **AutoCorrect**. Select the Replace text as you type check box.
2. In the **Replace** box, type an abbreviation you will remember – for example, **USFWS**.
3. In the **With** box, type the complete spelling of the word – for example, **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**.
4. Click **Add**.
5. Repeat steps 2 and 3 to add additional terms, then click **OK**.

You can also use this tip to quickly type people's names, technical terms – anything you want. And once you add a term to your AutoCorrect list, it also works in PowerPoint and Outlook.

## Waterfowl Hunters

By Kenneth Torkelson

Waterfowl hunters heading for North Dakota this fall now have one more source of information. The weekly waterfowl reports, compiled by the Service's North Dakota Wetland Habitat Office in Bismarck, now appear on the Region 6 website at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/pressrel.ndwaterfowl>.

The information used in the reports is gathered from managers and biologists at 13 of the Service's refuge and wetland offices in North Dakota as well as one station in South Dakota.

Writer-editor Ken Torkelson, who produces the reports for both internal and external audiences, says he likes to include practical information, but won't get very specific about locations. "I try to help hunters with their destination choices, but I'm not going to reveal the exact spot where a certain hunter has been very successful," he explains. Torkelson has been doing the reports for 11 years. "I get calls from hunters all over the country. In the past, I tried to give them all the information over the phone. Now I just give them the address for the website, and they can take as much as they want."

North Dakota leads the lower 48 states in duck production, and recently moved into fifth place in waterfowl harvest.

### Yamaha Recalls ATVs

By Ben Sobieck

Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A., is recalling 14,000 All-Terrain Vehicles to be inspected and repaired. The ATVs are 1997 and 1998 Warrior models and have "350 Electric" written on both sides of the bodywork. All of the 1997 Warrior models contain the defect, but only 1998 Warrior models with the vehicle identification numbers JY43GDW09WA199820 through JY43GDW00WA207657 and JY4AH01Y9WA000002 through JY4AH01Y5WA000241 are being recalled.

The affected vehicles suffer from faulty mounting brackets which may result in rear brake failure.

To locate a dealer where you can turn in your ATV, call (800) 88-YAMAHA, or visit their website at [www.yamaha-motor.com](http://www.yamaha-motor.com).

### Recovery Program helps Endangered Fish Species

By Ben Sobieck

The Upper Colorado River Recovery Program in Lakewood, Colorado, is a multi-state partnership aimed at recovering endangered fish species in the region while allowing for future water development. Their efforts have been imperative to the recovery of the Colorado pikeminnow, razor-back sucker, bonytail, and hump-back chub.

The program helps by building passageways for fish migration around dams, constructing "refuge" ponds for endangered fish species, and maintaining adequate stream flows for the fish.

Progress has been made, allowing for 600 water projects in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming to be completed with minimal environmental impact.

## Regional Director's Column Greening of Region 6

By Ralph Morgenweck



Every day we're reminded of the fragility of our environment – effects of global warming, salmon die-offs on the Klamath, health risks associated with air and water pollution, another plant or animal in serious decline, the list goes on and on. Slowly, but surely, we are coming to understand that the environment isn't something "out there." It's us – we live, breathe, eat, drink the environment. Knowing this, it behooves each and every one of us to do our part, however large or small, to protect our environment and improve our future.

That's why it gives me pleasure to recognize one of our own for taking the initiative to implement regional, grassroot efforts that combined with all the other regional, grassroot efforts will have lasting and far-reaching benefits.

I'm proud to announce that **Jim Behrmann**, Region 6 Environmental Compliance Coordinator, is a recipient of the 2002 Department of Interior Environmental Achievement Award. With this award, Jim joins a select group of Departmental employees recognized for their exceptional achievements or contributions toward making the Department more environmentally responsible.

Through Jim's innovative leadership, Region 6 hatcheries and refuges have successfully merged sustainable resource practices with the mission and objectives of the Fish and Wildlife Service. For example, Jim encourages the use of re-refined lubricating oil in passenger vehicles and supports businesses that recycle motor oil. Recycling and appropriate care of auto waste prevents illegal discharge of pollutants to waterways.

Jim also instituted the use of environmentally-friendly copier paper in the Regional Office and 20 field offices, thereby supporting markets for "tree-free" post consumer fiber and preventing toxic discharges at paper mills.

During FY 2001, Jim began systematically reviewing draft construction specifications, looking for opportunities to prevent pollution and promote recycling. Due to Jim's efforts, 10 engineering projects have used fly ash, an industrial by-product, in their concrete and recycled plastic lumber for decking. Again the Service is putting recycled or waste by-products to good use.

These are just a few examples of Jim's personal and professional commitments to reducing negative environmental impacts at a regional and local level. We all have a role to play in the conservation of our precious but limited natural resources. Eighty-five Region 6 field stations now have appointed Waste Prevention and Recycling Coordinators who serve as focal points for distributing information and tracking program successes. I encourage you to work with them and look for ways to expand our conservation efforts.

Thanks again, Jim, for your strong commitment to conservation and your innovative leadership in promoting environmental stewardship here in Region 6.

## Legislative Affairs Update Congress Laws

By Matt Kales

Late-season activity on the Hill of interest to the Mountain-Prairie Region includes the following:

In late September, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Jeffords, I-VT) marked H.R. 3908, to reauthorize the law that promotes the conservation of wetland ecosystems and the species they support, such as migratory waterfowl. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act would be renewed through fiscal 2007. As passed by the House May 7th, the bill (H. Rpt. 107-421) would increase the authorized funding level of \$50 million by \$5 million each year, change the proportions of NAWCA dollars required to be spent in Canada and Mexico from between 50 percent and 70 percent to between 25 percent to 50 percent, and clarify that grant match requirements stem from non-federal U.S. sources. The Service testified in support of reauthorization on April 11.

Also of interest to the Region is H.R. 4545/S.2514, the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act, the Conference Report for which has been cleared for a vote on the House floor, subject to a rule. Two items still to be reconciled are House-approved changes to the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) which were not included in the Senate bill. The House bill lets the military use an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan instead of designating critical habitat under the ESA and allows the Fish and Wildlife Service to grant permits to "take" migratory birds as a result of military activities under the MBTA.

The Mountain-Prairie Review is a monthly publication produced by the USFWS Region 6 External Affairs Office. Publisher: Ralph Morgenweck, Regional Director; Editor: Dan Sobieck, ARD-EA; Staff Writers: Karen Miranda Gleason, Matt Kales, Diane Katzenberger, David Redhorse, Sharon Rose; Design and Layout: Heather Gonzalez, IRM/ Jean Clemens, EA. All contributions from Region 6 employees are welcomed and will be considered for publication.